

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 9 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid container storing a liquid that forms a plurality of concentration layers in a static state and having a supply port for supplying the liquid to another device, the liquid container comprising:

a hollow tubular member whose one end installed in the liquid container is connected to the supply port, wherein the tubular member extends vertically upward from a bottom of the liquid container to a height almost equal to an inner height of the liquid container;

plural ~~at least one~~ liquid supply hole-holes formed in the tubular member at a plurality of vertically spaced locations, wherein each of the plural liquid supply holes introduces nearby liquid into the tubular member; and

an air introducing port provided at a bottom of the tubular member to introduce air into the tubular member, wherein said air introducing port and said supply port are both located at a bottom of said hollow tubular member;

wherein the liquid in the liquid container is introduced into the tubular member through the plural liquid supply hole-holes and the liquid thus introduced is supplied from the supply port to another device, and the air introduced into the tubular member through the air introducing port rises as a bubble in the tubular member to agitate the liquid inside the tubular member.

2. and 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plural liquid supply holes is as large as will allow the bubble introduced from the air introducing port to move therethrough out of the tubular member.

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid container as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the plural liquid supply holes are open in the tubular member in a direction at a predetermined angle to a center axis of the tubular member.

6. (Currently Amended) A liquid container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ~~plurality of plural~~ liquid supply holes are all open at the same angle to the center axis of the tubular member.

7. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular member, the supply port and the air introducing port combine to form an integral connection unit removable from the liquid container body.

8. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid is a pigment ink.

9. and 10. (Cancelled)